

those of Two Peoples Bay, and comparison with recordings from South Australia shows that there is little regional variation. Such consistency over a distance of some 1,240 km suggests the existence of further colonies of these birds around the little known coastline of the Great Australian Bight.

—F. N. ROBINSON, Helena Valley.

A Third Nesting Station of the Pelican in Peel Inlet.—Pelicans (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) have in recent years established two nesting stations in Peel Inlet, south of Mandurah—on Creery I. and Nirimba Cay (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 9 (4), 1964: 80-84). Prior to about 1962 the southernmost nesting colony known in Western Australia was Pelican I. in Shark Bay. Now a third nesting station has been discovered in Peel Inlet, on a sand island created as a result of spoil from dredging the Yundurup Canals Scheme. The island came into existence in 1972, and is one mile from the eastern shore of Peel Inlet just south of the Murray River delta at Yundurup. It is known locally as Sand I., White I., or as Joan Watters I.

Naturalists first became aware of the colony on July 7, 1974. Several of us, including Julian Ford, Ron Templeton, Tony Bush and myself, took Professor Charles Sibley, of the Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, on an excursion to Peel Inlet. Noting with the field-glasses an unusually dense concentration of Pelicans on the island we decided to make a closer inspection. To our surprise we found the birds were nesting. There were two groups of nests on the eastern slope of the islet. The more southerly group, evidently a slightly earlier laying, contained 47 nests—one egg in 3 nests; 2 eggs in 41 nests; and 3 eggs in 3 nests. The second group, close by, comprised 41 nests—one egg in 25 nests; 2 eggs in 15 nests, and 3 eggs in one nest. In addition there were 83 eggs scattered above the tide line, not in nests. All were fresh and cold. The Pelicans waddled off their nests as we landed, at 1.15 p.m., but immediately returned to the nests when we embarked in our dinghy at 1.20 p.m.

We were unable to visit the island again until September 8. In the interim, as we were informed by Mrs J. L. Wright and Mr C. G. Dunnet, of Culeenup I., Yundurup, that later in July there had been gales and floodings, during which part of the sand island had been inundated and the eggs washed away.

On September 8 I visited the island, with Dr Wilhelm Meise, of Hamburg. The Pelicans had laid again higher up the crest of the islet. We counted 65 adults but did not make too close an approach as we did not wish to disturb the birds unduly. The incubating birds were all on eggs and no chicks were visible. On September 15 I visited the island with Professor J. A. Keast. There were 33 nests—7 nests each contained 2 eggs; one nest had one egg and one chick; 13 nests had one chick, and 12 nests had 2 chicks. About 36 adult birds were present, very placid and they scarcely moved off as we approached. Most of the chicks were very small, evidently hatched during the week, though one or two were obviously older. On October 1 we (Mr A. G. Mathews, Mrs Geraldine Gregory and I) inspected the island with Messrs Phil Bodeker and D. Tapper of the "Daily News". Most of the young birds, now much more advanced, and covered with white down, crowded into a creche as we approached. About 30 of these young were counted. There were about 30 nests recognisable. In one nest was an egg and chick, 6 nests each contained one chick, one nest had 2 chicks, one had one egg, and one had 2 eggs. The adult birds returned very rapidly to the nesting area as we withdrew.

On October 12 the nesting site was visited by Brian Hutehison, A. G. Mathews, K. Flanagan and W. Meeham. All the chicks were in a creche and 41 were counted. The nests were unoccupied. Two dead chicks were noticed and one addled egg. The individuals in the creche moved off into the water as the visitors approached and were then herded back by the parents when the visitors left. All the chicks were downy but two or three were feathered, with brown backs. None could fly. Food regurgitated by

the young was entirely of shrimps (*Palaemonetes australis*). On the following day, October 13, the island was visited by a Naturalists Club party which also included Dr Frederick Hamerstrom and Dr Florence Hamerstrom, of Wisconsin, and Mrs M. B. Mills.

On October 31 Mr Max Bailey and I encircled the islet and made a census from the boat. The actual nesting site was not occupied but the young (29 individual young were counted) were on a sand bank just off the island and waddled into the sea as we approached. They were in a tight group and could not fly. They were downy, with feathers, and had pale bills. They were accompanied by 12 adults. Off Meeyip I., one of the Yundurup delta islands, 3 Pelicans were seen, one of which was evidently a young bird (smaller, with paler bill); perhaps it was an advanced young from this or one of the other Peel Inlet colonies. On November 5 I counted 32 young birds swimming in a compact group in the water off the sand island. They could not fly. On November 17 Miss V. M. Bristowe, Miss Christine Maggs and I visited the island and counted 28 young birds. They were swimming in a dispersed group, could not fly, and only flapped helplessly when the boat approached, unable to take off. The other four young seen on November 5 may have been elsewhere, as the young we counted swam quite some distance from their home island. There were few adults in the vicinity; only 4 were close by and 2 others flew in, as we watched, and joined the young birds.

—D. L. SERVENTY, Nedlands.

OBITUARY

BRUCE SHIPWAY

Bruce Shipway, Honorary Life Member of the Club, and former President (1948-49), died suddenly in Perth on May 29, 1972. He was born in Sydney, N.S.W., on March 27, 1907. His father, William Charles Shipway, a solicitor, was prominent in Sydney and Lord Howe Island affairs, and his mother was a member of the Hordern family. A brother, Phillip.



Bruce Shipway, 1966.